



March 2007

The Bay Leaf

California Native Plant Society • East Bay Chapter • Alameda & Contra Costa Counties
www.ebcnps.org

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Native Here p. 7

Fridays, March 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 Native Here Nursery open 9 am-noon

Saturdays, March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 Native Here open 10 am-1 pm

Field Trips p. 6

March 10, 2007, **Mt Diablo**

Sunday, March 18, 2:00 pm, **Bird Trail (Chabot Regional Park)**

Saturday, March 24, 2:00 pm, **Tilden Regional Park**

Membership Meeting see below

Wednesday, March 28, 2007, 7:30 pm

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Highlights of San Francisco Bay Area Geology

Speaker: **Doris Sloan**

Wednesday, March 28, 2007, 7:30 pm

Orinda Public Library Garden Room (directions below)

Geology is important to botanists as one of the major influences on our native flora, but it is also fascinating in its own right. This month's speaker, Doris Sloan, will present an overview of the Bay Area's varied geologic mosaic and young landscape with slides from her recent book, *Geology of the San Francisco Bay Region*, published by UC Press as one of the Natural History Guides. The book, which is written for the general public, is illustrated by the fine photographs of geologist John Karachewski.

Doris and John explored all nine Bay Area counties, seeking locations that best illustrate the local geology and that are accessible to the general public, particularly the many beautiful federal, state, and local parks. Doris will highlight some of the most interesting geological features of the region and share her favorite geological discoveries. This is a talk for everyone: Doris translates her expertise through her enthusiasm and gifts as a storyteller to make difficult concepts understandable for the layperson. Since this is a big topic, the presentation will start promptly at 7:30 pm and run an hour and a half long.

Doris Sloan is an Adjunct Professor in the Department of Earth and Planetary Science at UC Berkeley. She has a MS in geology and a PhD in paleontology, both from UC Berkeley. She has taught Environmental Sciences at UCB, classes on the geology of California and the Bay Area for UC Extension, and leads field seminars at Pt. Reyes, in the Sierra Nevada, and in the White Mountains. Her research has focused primarily on the sediments beneath San Francisco Bay and what they can tell us about the Bay's geologic history. After retirement she indulged her love of travel as geologist and host with Cal Alumni Bear Treks and other programs, visiting many corners of the world. Doris is also a native plant enthusiast and member of CNPS.

We will have copies of *Geology of the San Francisco Bay Region* available for purchase after the presentation.

East Bay CNPS membership meetings are free of charge and open to everyone. This month's meeting will take place in the Garden Room of the Orinda Public Library at 24 Orinda Way (in Orinda Village). The Garden Room is on the second floor of the building, accessible by stairs or an elevator. The Garden Room will open at 7:00 pm. The meeting begins at 7:30 pm. Refreshments will be served after the presentation. Please contact Sue Rosenthal, 510-496-6016 or rosacalifornica@earthlink.net, if you have any questions.

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Directions to Orinda Public Library at 24 Orinda Way:

From the west, take Highway 24 to the Orinda/Moraga exit. At the end of the off ramp, turn left on Camino Pablo (toward Orinda Village), right on Santa Maria Way (the signal after the BART station and freeway entrance), and left on Orinda Way.

From the east, take Highway 24 to the Orinda exit. Follow the ramp to Orinda Village. Turn right on Santa Maria Way (the first signal) and left on Orinda Way.

Once on Orinda Way, go 1 short block to the parking lot on the southeast side of the new 2-story building on your right. There is additional free parking beneath the building as well as on the street.

From BART (4 blocks): Exit the Orinda station, turn right and cross a pedestrian bridge, then cross a sec-

ond pedestrian bridge on the left. Go 1 short block on the sidewalk to the third pedestrian bridge. Go 2 blocks on Orinda Way to the Orinda Library.

Upcoming Programs

Wednesday, April 25, 2007, 7:30 pm (in the Orinda Community Center, next door to the Library): Rosemary Foster, "Plant Communities of Point Lobos"

Wednesday, May 23, 2007, 7:30 pm (in the Conference Center of the UC Botanical Garden at Berkeley):

Lester B. Rowntree on *Hardy Californians*, the recently republished and expanded classic of California native plant literature by pioneering plantswoman Lester Rowntree (his grandmother).

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Charli Danielsen Photo by Janice Bray

The East Bay Chapter of CNPS kicked off the year with a Board retreat in January. Most of the program leaders attended and reported on plans for the year. We came away with a number of useful recommendations about how to work with volunteers, create a clearer public image, publicize our work, utilize and expand our resources, including:

Outreach and Public Education

- Communicate a consistent core message about why native plants and communities are important;
- Continue to engage volunteers in horticulture while a plant sale ground is being sought;
- Concentrate on plants, but reach a wider audience;
- Provide more information about why certain areas are special, important, threatened, or interesting;
- Promote native plants, not the California Native Plant Society;
- Increase the types of publicity we use.

Fundraising and Development

- Recognize the distinct role of fundraising with respect to program goals of education, outreach, conservation and horticulture;

- Recognize that funds raised by the Plant Sale need to be replaced through other means, and that, should an appropriate site be found, funds will need to be raised to develop a Plant Sale growing and sales facility;
- Develop a mechanism for forming partnerships with individuals or organizations to raise funds for specific projects or programs with which they wish to be involved;
- Create a development committee to identify major donors, match needs with potential funding sources, and develop a strategy for funding the Chapter's needs.

Volunteerism

- Develop and foster an attitude that we welcome people and want their assistance;
- Follow up when someone offers to help;
- Have specific jobs ready for volunteers with a range of skills and interests;
- Publicize volunteer opportunities to the public and to the membership, scheduled at convenient times and places;
- Develop a mentoring attitude for all the jobs we have;
- Share success stories and communicate specific needs committee chairs may have;
- Training and coaching will help committee chairs to support their volunteers.

Committee meetings in February and March will begin the process of defining the objectives and needs for the fiscal year April '07-March '08, the Funds Development Committee will begin its work, and the officers will be working on the budget.

During this year, we hope to reach out to you, our members, to ask for your help. We need skills as varied as

- accounting
- horticulture
- writing
- use of Excel
- plant recognition
- weeding
- providing information about CNPS at events
- providing refreshments at membership meetings
- design or drawing
- photography
- cashiering
- book sales

- journalism
- construction assistance
- coordinating volunteers.

Levels of involvement vary from one-time event help to leading publicity, book sales, planning events such as the chapter picnic, CNPS presence at garden shows and Earth Day activities.

East Bay CNPS is an organization of interesting people committed to the preservation of California's (and specifically the East Bay's) native flora and vegetation. "The more the merrier" applies to working with the chapter. It really is fun to do work that helps our local plants!

Charli Danielsen

GRASSLANDS

Value of Native Grasslands: What's Your Opinion?

The Conservation Committee of the East Bay Chapter of CNPS (EBCNPS) is concerned that the East Bay public grasslands have succumbed to almost total invasion of non-native weedy plant species. We have described in the January *Bay Leaf*, page 4, and in documents on the chapter website why we are concerned about this.

Public agencies that own and manage these extensive East Bay grasslands recognize the value of having and preserving a native grasslands flora. However, it is not clear that the agencies are dedicating the resources necessary to achieve the noble goal of improving the native qualities of our public grasslands flora.

What are some of the real obstacles for management to overcome?* Without a realistic appraisal of these, it is impossible to take the next step of deciding how best to arrive at solutions to these problems.

First, the type and extent of native grasslands before European contact are a subject of scientific controversy. The East Bay Hills are a good example: was the dominant vegetation type a mosaic of grasslands? Baccharis-dominated coastal scrub? Or some other combination? Without better data, restoration is an elusive goal.

Second, many environmental changes have taken place since the time that grasslands were purely native. These include alterations in soil structure and chemistry, climate, fire regimes, native browsers and grazers, as well as the invasion of weeds and the diversion of groundwater. These complex factors suggest that we

cannot re-set the clock to pre-European contact conditions. How do we create adaptive strategies keyed to our current environmental conditions?

Third, we must consider the interaction between private land management practices such as grazing and the terms under which private ranch lands become public open space. Should lands that were formerly managed to optimize beef production continue to be managed in the same manner once they become parks? Will this result in increasing the native quality of the grasslands?

Fourth, since we know that we cannot achieve 100% purely native grasslands, how do we define the degree of nativeness of a contemporary grassland? Is it by percent cover, diversity of forbs, or some other measure?

And, finally, assuming that the public embraces the goal of some degree of grassland restoration, what will be the ongoing economic costs, and how will public agencies fund this goal?

* See a list of "obstacles" which are often raised in discussion about grasslands restoration at www.ebcnps.org/conservation/obstacles.pdf.

The Conservation Committee presents these questions to you, the members of EBCNPS, to solicit your opinions and ideas about this challenging subject; you can contact us at grasslands@ebcnps.org.

Peter Rauch and Laura Baker

BLACK DIAMOND MINES



Brad Jenkins of the Orange County Chapter of CNPS stops to examine a specimen of *Arctostaphylos manzanita*. Photo by Erin McDermott

For those of us who live in the western East Bay Area, namely Oakland and Berkeley, east Contra Costa County seems like a far away place. Black Diamond Mines Regional Preserve is a little known gem northeast of Mt Diablo and an excellent reason to venture east on Highway 4 through Antioch.

Black Diamond Mines has an interesting history. From the 1860s through the turn of the century, five coal mining towns thrived in the Black Diamond area: Nortonville, Somerville, Stewartville, West Hartley, and Judsonville. As the location of California's largest coal mining operation, nearly four million tons of coal, also known as "black diamonds" were mined from this area. In the 1920s underground mining for sand began near the deserted Nortonville and Somerville townsites. The sand was used in glass by the Hazel-Atlas Glass Company in Oakland, and for foundry (casting) by Columbia Steel Works. Sand mining in the area ended by 1949. More than 1.8 million tons of sand had been mined. After the mines closed, some miners began ranching. Descendants of original mining families still graze cattle in the Preserve.

Black Diamond Mines encompasses approximately 5,700 acres. Several species that are restricted to the Mt. Diablo area occur here, including the Mt. Diablo globe lily (*Calochortus pulchellus*), CNPS Inventory List 1B (which signifies it is rare, threatened, or endangered in California and elsewhere), Mt. Diablo helianthella (*Helianthella castanea*), CNPS List 1B, and Mt. Diablo

manzanita (*Arctostaphylos auriculata*), CNPS List 1B). Mt. Diablo manzanita is known only from Contra Costa County.

One of my new favorite hikes is the Chaparral Loop trail. This trail climbs through chaparral dominated by chamise (*Adenostoma fasciculatum*), Mt. Diablo manzanita (*Arctostaphylos auriculata*) and common manzanita (*Arctostaphylos manzanita* ssp. *manzanita*). Smooth manzanita (*Arctostaphylos manzanita* ssp. *laevigata*) also grows in the park and is differentiated from common manzanita by fewer inflorescence branches, longer axes on the unopened flower buds, and narrower leaves. Along the trail are prominent sandstone outcroppings with gorgeous streaks of color. The Chaparral Loop is also an excellent place to see foothill pine (*Pinus sabiniana*) and Coulter pine (*Pinus coulteri*) growing side by side. Foothill pine has gray-green needles that droop and the cone is brownish. Coulter pine has dark green needles that are straight (and denser than foothill pine) and a yellowish cone. Often foothill pines are multi-trunked while Coulter pines have a single trunk, but there are some young foothill pines along the loop that have a single trunk. Diablo helianthella can also be seen on this loop, look for it on a rocky outcropping on the western side of the loop. It is easily recognizable in flower (March-June) by its large, yellow sunflower heads, and its leaves that have three prominent veins. The Chaparral Loop is an excellent hike in the rain because the smooth, orange trunks of the manzanitas glisten and glow in a sea of evergreen leaves and the sandstone outcroppings show their colors.

To reach Black Diamond Mines Regional Preserve, take Highway 4 to the Somerville exit in Antioch. Drive south for several miles on Somerville Road to the Preserve entrance.

Erin McDermott

One does not begin to make a garden until he wants a garden. To want a garden is to be interested in plants, in the winds and rains, in birds and insects, in the warm-smelling earth.

Liberty Hyde Bailey

CONSERVATION

2006: A Year of Voice in Conservation

To be perfectly honest, resource conservation isn't exactly at the forefront of everyone's mind. Bombshells frequent our newspaper print instead of *Bombus*, fireweed doesn't stand a chance against forest fires, and iPods are slightly better sellers than blue-eyed grass.

Yet, even given the many constraints, the East Bay Chapter of CNPS (EBCNPS) has helped make headlines in a tumultuous, politically charged year. In fact, one of the most exciting landscape scale planning processes has been accepted by several governmental agencies, hopefully allowing Northern California's first Habitat Conservation Plan/Natural Communities Conservation Plan (HCP) to start protecting some of our most imperiled lands in Eastern Contra Costa County. Currently, the plan requires approval from a few more cities and agencies in order to become law.

On the coattails of the important HCP project is a 10-county planning effort initiated by the Bay Area Open Space Council that hopes to help determine priorities for conserving the next one million acres in the Bay Area. EBCNPS is serving on the steering committee of the Bay Area Upland Habitat Goals project, as well as helping with vegetation data analysis. These two projects help provide some insight into one of our most important questions: what makes conservation efforts successful?

These two projects epitomize what I believe are the single most important factors in a fruitful effort—collaboration and cooperation. In both cases, there are

unlikely faces at the table being listened to and understood. Lawyers are sitting next to developers who are next to peach farmers who are next to grassroots advocates who are next to city planners. If everyone gets involved good decisions can be made. Yes, I think it's that simple, when everyone is in the room and has an equally audible voice.

A voice. That's really what we all strive after in life. We want to be heard when it's important, when we're knowledgeable, when we're concerned. We all have different ways in which we may use our voice, whether we talk, sing, draw, paint, dance, or simply laugh. What I have observed in the course of working on the two projects discussed above is that the various voices of the disparate groups are heard. We tend to start working on things that we feel we can make successful, where our voice is likely to be heard.

Therefore, even in trying times, EBCNPS, an organization of committed volunteers, interested members, and a fiery board of directors, has the ability to continue to make conservation successes happen. It has been an honor to play a small role in these two regional projects and other local conservation efforts in Oakland, Livermore, Concord, Pittsburg, Richmond, Albany, Fremont, Pleasanton, Moraga, San Leandro, and San Ramon. If you haven't already, I hope that you will consider joining the effort in 2007.

Lech Naumovich

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Membership Drive at the Garden Tour

Prizes, Raffles and Fun

Helpers Needed May 5 and 6 from 10 am to 5 pm

We will be conducting a CNPS Membership Drive at the Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour on May 6. We'll have membership tables with information about CNPS and, for new and renewing members, prizes that will include a raffle for a free consultation with a landscaper (who knows about native plants, of course).

Native Here Nursery will be open to sell plants on May 5 and 6 and we'll have a membership table there too.

We will be in Contra Costa County at the Escobar Garden in Walnut Creek, the Hammond Garden in Martinez and the Alatorre garden in Richmond. The locations in

Alameda County will be the Fleming garden in Berkeley, the Schino garden in San Leandro and our own Native Here Nursery in Tilden Park, Berkeley. Photos, plant lists and descriptions of all the gardens are on the tour website—www.bringingbackthenatives.net.

Please contact: Delia Taylor to help out for a morning or an afternoon, 510-527-3912 deliataylor@mac.com. If you have ideas for prizes please let me know.

To treat your facts with imagination is one thing, but to imagine your facts is another.

John Burroughs

PLANT SALE ACTIVITIES

Early this year, the City of Oakland undertook a more thorough assessment of the Grotto area at the Dunsmuir Estate (the area they had identified as a possible plant sale location for us). Their assessment raised serious concerns about the safety of the foot and vehicle bridges to the area, which cross a creek, and because of those concerns, they determined that they could not lease the area to us. The City of Oakland representative and the new president of the Dunsmuir board were not able to find another suitable place at Dunsmuir for our plant sale.

So we are once again looking for a location. We need approximately 5,000 square feet (deer-proof or easily deer-proofable) with access to power and water, where

we can build a small greenhouse and related structures and host a popular event once a year. If you know of a potential site, please contact Roy West at 650-906-1100 or rwest@monocot.com.

Disappointing as this news is, we're taking it as an incentive to start a new program for people who like to propagate and/or garden with natives. If this interests you, be sure to read the "New Activity for Native Gardeners" article in this issue.

Sue Rosenthal

FIELD TRIPS

March 10, 2007. Meet at 9:30 am at the end of Rialto Drive in Clayton. Gregg Weber will lead. See some of the many midwinter flowers on **Mt Diablo**. This year we will go about 3 weeks later than the same route last year, due to colder, drier weather. This is a strenuous walk to the peak of Mt Olympia, with 2300 feet elevation gain on the way out. It will be all downhill on the return trip. Round trip is about 8 miles. Trip will take 4-6 hours. Bring lunch and water, and be prepared for a wide range of temperature, depending on the weather.

We will take Clayton Oaks Trail, Bruce Lee Spring Trail, lower Donner Trail, Wasserman Trail, Olympia Trail, Zippe Trail. We go through many different plant communities as we change elevation. We will see quite a few winter blooming plants on this trip. There is a nice view from the peak. We will not be deterred by rain, and will proceed regardless of weather.

Directions: Take 24 or 680 to Ignacio Valley Road. Continue on Ignacio Valley Road into City of Clayton, turn right on Clayton Road. Take Clayton Road past first intersection with Marsh Creek Road in about a mile, it becomes Marsh Creek Road. Continue straight on Marsh Creek Road. Turn right on Regency Drive. Go 3 blocks, turn left on Rialto Drive. Go to end of Rialto Drive and park.

Sunday, March 18, 2:00 pm, **Bird Trail (Chabot Regional Park)** This short (about 1/2 mile, with insignificant elevation gain) trail is a botanically interesting transition zone between redwood forest and mixed evergreen (mostly oak/bay) forest. At this relatively early in the season date, there will be osoberry, flowering currant, gooseberries, and lots of western leatherwood

in bloom, along with early wildflowers such as *Trillium chloropetalum*. The trail may be muddy. The trail starts close to the MacDonald Staging Area in Chabot Regional Park off Redwood Road in Oakland.

Directions: in the East Bay, from the north, take 24 to 13 south. From the south, take 580 north to 13. From San Francisco, take the Bay Bridge, staying to the right (but **do not go to San Jose**), and take 580 East, and then 24 East (towards Walnut Creek) and then 13 South. Once on 13, take the Redwood Road exit. On Redwood Road, go east (uphill). At the top of the hill you will cross Skyline Boulevard and then pass various equestrian facilities. Go down into the valley. About two miles from Skyline Boulevard, turn right into the MacDonald Staging Area parking lot. (It is a large lot and you cross a bridge over a creek; there is a small lot about 1/4 mile to the north which is not the correct place; if coming from the north you reach the entrance to Redwood Regional Park on the left, you have gone about 1/4 mile too far.) Please contact David Margolies (510-654-0283 or 510-393-1858 (cell), divaricatum@comcast.net) if you need further information.

Saturday March 24, 2:00 pm, **Tilden Regional Park** Join Margit Roos-Collins and East Bay Regional Park naturalist Linda Yemoto in a leisurely survey of edible plants near the Gillespie Group Camp area. Margit is author of *The Flavors of Home: A Guide to Edible Wild Plants in the San Francisco Bay Area*.

We will meet at the intersection of South Park Drive and Grizzly Peak and walk together down South Park to the access road for Gillespie. Margit will discuss how to forage in a safe, environmentally sensitive way, and share information on the harvest season, habitats,

preparations and uses of both indigenous and exotic edible plants growing along the way. This hike is being offered with the cooperation of park district, which has generously provided the assistance of Linda Yemoto, who will contribute her own knowledge of local edible plants. Edible plant tasting is encouraged, but not mass collection of plants for later consumption.

Directions: Meet Margit and Linda at the intersection of Grizzly Peak and South Park Drive. South Park Drive will be closed for newt migrations, but parking is allowed on the side of Grizzly Peak. From Oakland and points south, go on 24 east and take the Telegraph/Claremont exit. Turn left at the traffic light at the end of the ramp,

and follow Claremont several miles northeast. Continue uphill on Claremont past Ashby all the way to Skyline/Grizzly Peak. Turn left at the 4-way stop and follow Grizzly Peak to the intersection with South Park Drive. From Orinda and points east, go west on 24 and exit at Fish Ranch Road. Follow Fish Ranch all the way uphill to its intersection with Skyline/Grizzly Peak. Turn right at the stop sign on the ridge and follow Grizzly Peak north to the intersection with South Park Drive.

Janet Gauthrop

NATIVE HERE NURSERY

Now that the rains have begun again, our gardens are rejoicing. We want to begin thinking about planting something for spring! We want to smell the damp soil on our hands as we begin weeding and digging and discovering what surprises we have in store for the coming year. Come up and visit us at Native Here and we can help you find just the right plants for your garden. We have many natives like *Ribes sanguineum*, buttercups (*Ranunculus californicus*) and Douglas iris (*Iris douglasiana*) ready to plant in your garden. March will be the last month we'll have iris available for planting. We have lots of annuals coming along as well.

On March 17 UC Berkeley students from the Berkeley Project will be helping us at the nursery. If you'd like

to join us in a fun workday, come on up. Hopefully it won't rain on us.

We'll need volunteers for the Native Plant Sale Extravaganza on the Bringing Back the Natives Tour on May 5th and 6th, 2007. You can get more information and register to volunteer at www.BringingBackTheNatives.net.

Native Here Nursery is located in Tilden Park at 101 Golf Course Drive, across the street from the entrance to the Tilden Golf Course, 510-549-0211.

Janice Bray & Margot Cunningham, Native Here Nursery



Iris douglasiana (Douglas Iris)



Ranunculus californicus (California buttercup)



Ribes sanguineum var. *glutinosum* (pink-flowering currant)

Artwork by Janice Bray

NEW ACTIVITY FOR NATIVE GARDENERS

Our plant sale and Native Here Nursery have traditionally been the focus of our chapter's propagation and gardening activities, augmented for a few years by a native plant growers' discussion group. However, since we don't yet know when we'll have our plant sale up and running again, and since there's more to native plant gardening than just propagation, we thought it would be fun to invite native plant lovers who like to get their hands dirty to join a new group. We'll focus the group in whatever way the participants decide would best suit their needs. This could include propagation work at Native Here Nursery or elsewhere, gardening at each

other's houses or elsewhere, discussing propagation and gardening, taking field trips to native gardens, and anything else the group would like. We'll decide everything together—focus and direction, meeting place and time, even the group's name.

If this sounds interesting to you, please contact Sue Rosenthal at nativeplantgrowers@ebcnps.org or 510-496-6016.

Sue Rosenthal

JEPSON HERBARIUM

The Friends of the Jepson Herbarium are pleased to present a broad range of topics this season. Unless otherwise specified, workshops are held at UC Berkeley.

Below are the workshops in March and April. There will be more May-November.

March 1-4: *Bryoinventory at Angelo Coast Range Reserve* (Jim Shevock)

March 10: TOL – *The Vertebrate Branch of the Tree of Life* (M. Brandley)

March 17-18: *Introduction to Morphology and Identification of Flowering Plants* (Linda Ann Vorobik)

March 24-25: *Basics of Botanical Illustration* (Linda Ann Vorobik)

March 24-25 and March 31-April 1 (2 consecutive weekends): *Fifty Plant Families in the Field* (Linda and Richard Beidleman). **Full**, waitlist only.

April 5-8: *Eastern San Diego and Imperial County* (Jon Rebman)

April 12-15: *Lichens of the Mojave National Preserve* (Larry St. Clair)

April 14- 5: *Introduction to Field Collecting Techniques* (Abby Moore & Mike Park)

April 20-22: *Chorizanthe at Sedgewick Reserve* (Jim Reveal)

April 28: *Using Electronic Keys for Botanical Identification*. 8am-12pm. (Tom Rosatti and Chris Meacham)

BRINGING BACK THE NATIVES GARDEN TOUR

Registration is now open for the free Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour, which will take place on Sunday, May 6, 2007, from 10 am to 5 pm at various locations throughout Alameda and Contra Costa counties. Register for passes and a printed guide to 60 bird- and butterfly-friendly, pesticide-free, water-conserving, low-maintenance gardens that contain 30% or more native plants. More than 60 free talks will be offered throughout the day. The Carpools and Gardeners Match section of the website will help registrants find neighbors to share gardening skills, native plants or tools, plan work parties, or arrange carpools.

Two new features will be offered for the first time at this year's Tour. The first, a series of Select Tours—intimate, guided tours of inspirational native plant gardens—will take place on consecutive Saturdays, April 28 and May 5. Gardening experts will lead small groups to select native plant gardens for an in-depth look at native plantings in a variety of settings. The fee for these tours is \$30 per person with a limit of 30 participants per group.

The second new Tour feature is the Native Plant Sale Extravaganza, which will take place on Saturday and Sunday,

May 5 and 6. This exclusive sale features native plant nurseries—many not normally open to the general public—which carry large quantities of hard-to-find California natives. This two-day shopping opportunity will offer native plant fans a good selection of native plants and provide a relaxed shopping experience. Knowledgeable staff will be on hand to help shoppers select the right plants for their gardens, and Saturday shoppers will have time to visit more showcase native plant gardens on Sunday, May 6, during the Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour.

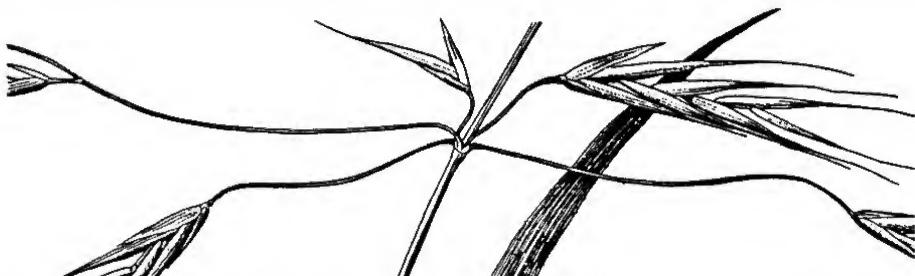
The registration deadline for both the Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour and the Select Tours is April 25. You can register online at www.BringingBackTheNatives.net. Both Tours are expected to fill quickly. Early registration is suggested to ensure a place.

Volunteers are needed and will be rewarded with free, private tours of beautiful native gardens. For more information visit the website at www.BringingBackTheNatives.net, email Kathy@KathyKramerConsulting.net or call (510) 236-9558 between 9 am and 9 pm.

**IDENTIFYING AND APPRECIATING
THE NATIVE AND NATURALIZED GRASSES
OF CALIFORNIA**

Presented by

The California Native Grassland Association (CNGA) and the East Bay Regional Park District



**Grass Identification Workshop: A two day class and field course for the beginner
S.F. Bay Area Workshop**

Friday and Saturday April 20-21, 2007

East Bay Regional Park District's Trudeau Center, Oakland , CA

8:30 am to 4:00 pm

\$ 220/members; \$ 260 nonmembers

The theme of this workshop is "Grasses are fun and easy to identify". Our goal is to learn the basic skills of identifying grasses. On the first day, we will learn about California's grassland ecology, the qualities of specific native grasses for restoration, and become skilled at recognizing the basic groups and common species through our work with plant samples in the classroom setting. We will review both the old Tribe method of identifying grasses as well as the artificial key methodology focusing on the important distinguishing traits. A valuable class syllabus binder and a basic key will be provided. The next day, we will explore local East Bay grasslands, rich with a diverse assemblage of both native and naturalized grasses, and make use of our new understanding and skills. Bring a 10X hand lens, notebook, scotch tape and any field guides to grasses you may have. Recommended texts are the Jepson Manual, the Hitchcock Manual, and Beecher Crampton's Grasses in California (U.C. Press). Information and directions will be sent with paid registration.

Sign up early, the workshop is limited to 35 people. Deadline: April 15, 2007

Instructor: *David Amme, Wildland Vegetation Program Manager, EBRPD*

Registration Form

Complete and return as soon as possible.

Mail to: CNGA, P.O. Box 72405, Davis California 95617

Fax to: (530) 753-1553

Participant's name (type or print please) _____

Mailing address: Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip code _____

How shall CNGA contact you to confirm your registration?

fax to _____ mail to above mailing address

e-mail to _____

Registration fee: \$ 220/members; \$ 260 nonmembers

Payment by check, payable to California Native Grass Association

Payment by credit card (please check type) Visa MasterCard American Express

Card Number _____ Expiration date ____ / ____

Authorized signature _____

*If you have questions concerning registration, please contact Jan Bridges, Administrative Director, CNGA
by phone: (530) 759-8458; fax: (530) 753-1553; or e-mail:<admin@cnga.org>*

Board of Directors

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